

4 April 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a subscriber to both XM and Sirius. I have 5 XM receivers and 3 Sirius receivers that I pay long term and family plan subscriptions for. To me, the merger will mean more programming choices for less \$\$\$\$. I will be able to reduce the number of subscriptions, AND pay for the services I want from each current provider at less cost. Each service has its pros and cons. I think combining content protects subscribers from BOTH services, and offers better programming, not less. The market will drive which channels survive, which content is provided. I think in this case (hardware requirements alone), the consumer is better served by combining the two providers with the condition that no current hardware will become obsolete.

This technology is somewhat unique in this requirement to have specific hardware to receive the same "satellite" radio signal unlike AM or FM or broadcast television which is broadcast on a standard protocol and frequency. The consumer investment in satellite radio's case is in the hardware. The consumer has to choose between what hardware to invest in, and then could be "left hanging" if he/she made "the wrong choice". My analogy is 8 track vs. cassette, Beta vs. VHS, Blu Ray vs. HD DVD, etc. For this reason, if no other, I think the merger is in the best interest of the consumer.

Does satellite radio compete with local AM and FM? Youbetcha. The LACK of adequate AM or FM radio is what drove me to satellite. But let's remember, that today, AM, FM, XM, SIRIUS are not the only choices. I have many friends, young and old, that convert all of their music to MP3 and play it at work, at home, in the car, and places where terrestrial and satellite is not available. As an example, I live in a "rural" setting. My wife had surgery last week and was hospitalized at George Washington University Hospital in the District of Columbia. I stayed at a local hotel within walking distance, and also took some side "tours" using the Metro system. I never knew how many people had IPODS! Take some time and look around mass transit locations – you'll see what I mean. This is where the competition is. Satellite isn't the evil doer here. There are multitudes of choices for people, a lot of competition for "entertainment".

This is why I don't see this merger as the evil monopoly as some would like to see it described. I think the competition in this case is not XM vs. Sirius, but satellite vs terrestrial vs. download vs. internet vs. TV vs. CD vs. live shows, etc.

v/r,

Ted Verdict